

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 14. 1708.

I think I have sufficiently made out, what I alledg'd in these three Heads.
1. That our Manufactures were decay'd and declining; and 2. That the Increase of the *East-India Goods* was the true and only Occasion of it all: This I have prov'd by showing you,

1. That they were in full Trade and good Condition in the Years 1686 to 90.
2. That they began to decline, when the *East-India Goods* began to encrease.
3. That they gradually declin'd in a true Proportion, just as the other encreased.
4. That the Manufactures felt the lowest Decrease, and were in the worst Condition, just when the *East-India Goods* were in their Meridian.

5. That as soon as ever the Prohibition gave a Checque to the *East-India Trade*, the said Manufactures felt a proportion'd Alteration, and sensibly as well as quickly reviv'd.
6. That still gradually and in just Proportion, as the Glut of *East-India Goods* wasted and wore off, the Woollen and Silk Manufactures recover'd, till they grew again from the miserable languishing Condition before describ'd, to the present happy Posture we find them in, and which I have also describ'd; a Condition that is at present very comfortable to all that wish well to the *English Trade*, and is in particular a very great Support to our Poor, who suffer so deeply in all the other Branches of our Woollen Manufacture,

facture, by this ruinous and destructive War, and helpe us to bear it the better.

I cannot but think these Heads will amount to a Demonstration, and even the Gentlemen of the Company themselves cannot but acknowledge, that this Alternative is just — But if they should dispute it, let them be pleas'd but to examine one particular Trade, which now is wholly among our own Poor, and formerly was wholly in the *East India Company*; I mean the Trade of *Silk Handkerchiefs*, formerly the *Handmills* of several Sets supply'd this whole Article, and all our Servtmen, and such like People wore them, wholly made of Cotton or Cotton and Silk — I need send the Enquirers no farther now than *Spittle-Fields* to produce Witnesses of what I say, which may perhaps seem incredible, (*viz.*) that at least 10000 People are now maintain'd and employ'd by this one single Article, I mean, Making of Handkerchiefs; I should write a Book of thos, which is far from my Business, if I should enter into the long Account of Particulars; but if 10000 English People now get their Bread, by making what 10000 Mahometans made before, even this very Article was worth the Prohibition, and as in all Businesses 'tis a standing Rule to employ as far as possible our own Poor, nothing can be a greater Instance of the Wisdom of the Parliament in the Prohibition of those Goods.

I should leave this Subject here, but I cannot part with it, till I have made a short Note on the Management of our *East India Companies*; *seen* not only as to Trade in general, but as to their own Interest in particular.

I think, in the Begioning of this War, the *East-India Company* had the greatest Opportunity both to have serv'd themselves and their Country, that ever fell into the Hands of any single Set of Men in the World; all which, whether that they had got Souls to endeavour the general Good of Trade, or any Concern upon them for the

Manufactures of *England*, and Prosperity of our People, or whether a general Insurrection p. s. f. s'd them in common with us all, for we have all been under *Agreeable* & *Witchcraft* in Trade ever since this War — I shall not now examine; but I'll lay down some Generals, which I may have more Leisure to explain, in which the *East-India Company* have, as King Charles II. said of the *Statovars*, given themselves a Company — — I do not say of what, let the Consequence determine that, after I have laid down some Heads, which I say, they might have done.

1. I affirm, they might have carry'd on their whole Trade in the greatest Magnitude they ever had brought it up to, without exporting one Ounce of Bullion from *England* in a Year.
2. They might have export'd a Million and a Half per Annum in Woollen Manufactures every Year, and have found an easie Vent for them to their own infinite Advantage, and the Nations too.
3. They might have had a full Liberty for the Return of all their Silks, Stuffs, &c. and not have interter'd with our Manufacture at all.
4. They might, by the very Management of their single Trade, have been more assistent to the present War, than ever 50 Men of War and 3000 Men have been since the War began.
5. They had even by this Time filled themselves with Wealth, and the Nation with Trade, and made themselves the greatest Society of Men in Trade, that ever were or will be in the World.

If these are Paradoxes, I shall at any Time explain them, I doubt not, to a general Satisfaction, and I dare say to the Conviction of the Gentlemen themselves; I am sorry they had not their Eyes open to Things in their proper Season, I dare not promise them that it is not now too late.

But of this hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

Fallere Fallentem Frans est, say I, in Con-
diction to the old Proverb, and 'tis
Opinion, that it is a Sin to cheat the
D.-l.

I made no Question, but when I charg'd
some People with reproaching the late
King *William*, they would have something
or other to palliate—But did ever any Body
think, they would have nothing to fly to
but Recrimination, a Thing which was al-
ways allow'd for a Confession of Guilt—
And what is this Recrimination? Truly,
that I have compar'd the Sufferings of King
James to those of King *Charles I.* and thereby
reflected upon King *Charles I.*

Miserable Shifters! Whether will ye fly?
Does it reflect upon King *Charles*, to say
another suffer'd worse Things than He?
You will agree to say, we hope He is in
Heaven, would it reflect upon him to say,
He that dy'd here in Peace, but reaches not
that Place of Bliss, suffers beyond him?
Was it impossible a Man should suffer more
than King *Charles*? —But this is not the
Enquiry, and you always take this Cause at
the wrong End—Will you come to enquire,
who each Person suffer'd by, and this is the
true End of the Comparison? —And if the
Higb Flying Gentlemen will be pleased to
examine how they drew K. *James* into the
Miseries he suffer'd, betray'd him in them,
and took up Arms against him for them,
they will find some Reason to see, that
there was something more than Rebellion
in their Treachery, and something worse
than Death in his Suffering?

And let none of my civilling Observers
pretend here, that I call the taking Arms
against King *James* Treason; No, no, as it
was the Act of the Nation to defend their
Rights and Liberties, it could not be Treas-
on, the Law of Nature must then be Treas-
on; for Nations to fight for Liberty, and
oppose Tyranny, has been approv'd by
GOD Almighty in all Ages, and has been
the Practice of all Nations in the World..

But these Men were Traytors in the
highest Degree for all that, and their Treas-
on lay in their drawing him in to that
Tyranny, pretending to call it the Do-
ctrine of their Church, preaching it up as
the Duty of the People to submit to it, and
when it came to the Posh, fly in his Face
for it themselves. They were truly perjur'd;
other People took the Oaths in the true
genuine Sense of an Oath of Allegiance,
these took it in the Sense and Terms of a
Tyrant Ruler, and Slaves instead of Sub-
jects; and therefore it was Treason and
Perjury in them, when it was not so in o-
ther People; according to the Case often
stated in the taking Towns and re-taking
them, and making the Inhabitants swear
Allegiance alternatively, now to this, to
morrow to that Prince, as they fall under
their Power.

We all allow, and no Man can challenge
me here; what King *James* suffer'd as to the
Nation, was nothing but what he had Rea-
son to expect, and they had Reason to dy—
But what is this to his Passive Obedience
Men? What he suffer'd from them, who pre-
tended to be his Friends, and indeed were his
Exciters to the ruinous Methods he fell upon,
had something in it beyond the Agonies of
Death; and a Man of much less Steadiness
and Resolution than King *Charles I.* would
with both Arms embrace a Scaffold before
it; it was the Ingratitude of a *Brunus* made
a *Cæsar* despair, and the Reproach of his
Friends made a *Job* impatient.

They were the Words of King *James*
himself to a Clergy-man, well known still at
Feverham, and they were heard by many
yet alive, when he coldly let the King in
that Condition entreat him to assist in paci-
fying the tumultuous People, *It is the
Men of your Cloth, Sir, have brought me to
this*—Who could be mean, but those
Mad-men of the Pulpit, that persuaded
him, they would stand by him in oppressing
the Liberties of the People, and that the
Doctrine

Doctrine of the Church of England obliged them all to stand still, and let the King exercise his absolute Will upon them, let it be to Liberty, Estate, Religion or Life; it was you Passive Obedience Cheats, you *Fare Divino Jugglers*, says his Majesty, have brought me to this, and now you will not so much as concern your self to appease a Rabble for me.

Let no Man think ill of me for it, neither I believe can they justly of any honest Man, if I own that we all pity King James as a Man, as a Prince, and as a Prince impos'd upon abus'd by a villainous Party—A Party, that leading him to the Brink of the Pit, thrust him in, and stood still and insulted him; a Party, that prompting him to break and dispense with the Laws and Liberties of his People, as long as they had any Prospect of a Share in the Plunder, as soon as ever they found it turn upon themselves, were the first that cry'd Fire, and rais'd the whole Country upon him.

Now, let the State of his Case between him and his People be what it will, let the Revolution be on never o' just and rational a Foundation, as I firmly believe nothing in the World more just, yet these were Scarlet-Traytors, their Treachery smells of *Topbet*, 'tis black as Hell, and aggravated with the very same Guilt, for which their Grand-Father *Judas* hang'd himself.

Of these People I cannot but collect you a few Lines, which tho' already printed, every Reader may not have seen, and being on the very same Subject, 'tis their Fault they are twice cook'd up.

*If any Prince is flatter'd to believe,
Subjects will blind Obedience to him give;
Let him be wary, e're he comes to try,
They'll all by Practice give their Words the Lye;
If any doubt the Caution is not so,
Let him to England for Precedents go.
We courted Chains but 'twas in Court Disguise,
And Holy Fraud conceal'd the Sacred Lyes;*

*The Church, the Mountebank; the King, the Jeſt;
The wheedl'd Monarch, and the wheedling Priest;
Soon as Coercives firſt began t' appear,
They made their Maſter buy the Jeſt too dear,
Told him they'd willingly ſupport his Crown,
In any ones Oppreſſion but their own;
But when their own Subjeſtion they foreſaw,
They cry'd out loudeſt Liberty and Law;
Their vow'd Submission early they withdraw,
First beg'd their Monarch's Pardon, then re-
belleſt;
Softly, diſſuſeſt him from his Right Divine,
And unſwore all Allegiance to his Line.
The horrid Villany is plain from hence,
Not in the Change but in the firſt Pretence;
For when b' proud the patient Paſſive tribe,
His Sufferings may their Honesty deſerve.*

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

These are to give Notice,

THAT *MART KIRLEUS*, the Widow of *JOHN KIRLEUS*, Son of Dr. *THO. KIRLEUS*, a Sworn-Physician, in ordinary to King *Charles II.* Sells (rightly prepar'd) his Famous Drink and Pills; experienc'd above 50 Years to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurf, Scurvies, Leprosies, Running of the Reins, and the moſt inveterate VENEREAL Disease, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or deſtructive Mercurial Preparations: These incomparable Medicines need no Words to exprefſe their Virtues; the many miserable One that have been happily cured, after gives over by others, ſufficiently recommend them as the moſt Sovereign Remedy in the World againſt all ſuch Malignities: She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compafſion to the diſtrefled, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. the Box with Di-rections, and Advice *Gratis*.

†† *She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand Court, over againſt great Turnstile in Holborn.*